
STATE OF MAINE

2003 DIRECTORY OF STATE ENERGY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES



MAINE STATE PLANNING OFFICE

January 2003

Acknowledgements

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Substantive Editor: Jody Harris
Proofreader: Donna Bradstreet
Project Manager: Julie Hashem



Maine State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-8050
www.maine.gov/spo

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Introduction

About This Directory

This directory is intended as an easy reference to energy-related programs and resources in Maine state government. Programs and resources are listed by the department or agency with oversight responsibility. For an alphabetical listing of individual programs and resources, see the index at the end of this directory.

The Energy Resources Council

The State Planning Office compiled this directory on behalf of the Energy Resources Council. In 2002, the Legislature established the Energy Resources Council to facilitate interagency coordination of the State's activities related to energy. Membership of the Council includes:

- Director of the State Planning Office, Chair
- Chair of the Public Utilities Commission
- Commissioner of Environmental Protection
- Public Advocate
- Commissioner of Transportation
- Commissioner of Administration and Financial Services
- Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
- Director of the Maine State Housing Authority

As one of its first priorities, the Energy Resources Council requested a summary of the energy-related programs and resources across State government. This directory is intended as a reference not only for Council members, but also for the constituencies that they serve.

The Energy Resources Council meets monthly and reports annually to the Legislature. Council meetings are open to the public. Meeting agendas and minutes are provided at: www.maine.gov/spo/energy/energycouncil.htm.

Directory of State Energy Programs



Administrative & Financial Services, Department of

The Department of Administration & Financial Services, through its Bureau of General Services (and its Division of Purchases, influences state energy use with its procurement policies, fleet management, renovation and construction of state buildings, and state building energy management.

CLEAN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The State of Maine, through the Departments of Administration & Financial Services (DAFS) and Environmental Protection (DEP), work together to ensure that state government functions are in compliance with applicable state and federal environmental laws and to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices (including energy practices) into state government functions and operations.

www.maine.gov/purchase/cleangovt/homepage.htm

See also, Environmental Protection, Department of

Richard B. Thompson 624-7332

Director of Purchases
9 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
richard.b.thompson@maine.gov

RECYCLING STATE WASTE

The Division of Purchases manages the State's waste recycling program which recycled 209 tons of paper in FY 02. Recycling generally reduces societal energy use.

Richard B. Thompson 624-7332

Director of Purchases
9 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
richard.b.thompson@maine.gov

STATE BUILDING ENERGY USE

The Bureau of General Services sells or demolishes old, inefficient buildings that have no value; renovates those that do; and constructs new buildings where necessary, all using energy efficient materials and systems.

The Bureau is also working with the Public Utilities Commission to fund energy efficient improvements to state buildings through its Electric Energy Conservation Program.

The Bureau manages school construction projects with the Department of Education and with local school districts. Among other things, the Bureau assures compliance with statutory requirements relating to energy efficiency.

See also Public Utilities Commission

Richard B. Thompson 624-7332

Director of Purchases
9 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
richard.b.thompson@maine.gov

ENERGY SAVINGS PILOT PROGRAM

The Legislature set an energy reduction goal of 25% from 1998 levels by 2010 for facilities owned by the State. Consistent with this goal, the Bureau of General Services established a pilot project using performance-based contracts to achieve energy savings in at least 10 facilities over 40,000 square feet in area. In addition, the Bureau is reducing energy use in state buildings through energy efficient construction, renovation, and purchasing practices. Annual reports to the Legislature are required. Citation: 5 MRSA §1770

See also Administration & Financial Services, Department of
State Building Energy Use
State Purchasing

Elaine Clark 624-7394

Director, Bureau of General Services
77 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
elaine.clark@maine.gov

STATE PURCHASING

The Division of Purchases requires that all copiers, appliances and office equipment have an ENERGY STAR® label. Personal computers and peripherals (printers, scanners, etc.) are purchased only from vendors who provide ENERGY STAR® products to state agencies. The Division meets EPA guidelines for the purchase of paper products with recycled content.

Richard B. Thompson 624-7332

Director of Purchases
9 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
richard.b.thompson@maine.gov

STATE VEHICLES

The Division of Purchases reviews all motor vehicle purchases for use in state government for compliance with statutory fuel efficient requirements.

Richard B. Thompson 624-7332

Director of Purchases
9 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
richard.b.thompson@maine.gov

Attorney General, Office of

The Office of Attorney General enforces state antitrust and consumer protection statutes in Maine energy markets and offers mediation services to consumers.

MARKET MONITORING AND ANTI-TRUST

The Office of the Attorney General reviews mergers and acquisitions for antitrust compliance (10 MRSA § 1102-A), monitors petroleum markets for market power under the Petroleum Market Share Act (10 MRSA § 1671 et seq.), enforces antitrust laws barring collusion and monopolization, enforces consumer protection laws barring unfair and deceptive conduct, and enforces home heating rules governing heating oil under the Unfair Trade Practices Act (5 MRSA § 205A – 214). It also enforces, in the event of extreme market dislocation (e.g. during an energy shortage), the profiteering in necessities (price gouging) statute (10 MRSA §1105).

Francis Ackerman 626-8800

Assistant Attorney General
6 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
francis.ackerman@maine.gov

Kathi Peters 626-8800

Research Assistant
6 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
kathi.peters@maine.gov

MEDIATION SERVICES

The Office of the Attorney General provides a free mediation service for consumers who have a problem with a business.

www.maine.gov/ag

Office of Attorney General 626-8849

Public Protection Division
Consumer Information & Mediation Service
6 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333



Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Department of

The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) within the Department of Defense Veterans and Emergency Management, has statutory authority to coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency management within the state.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

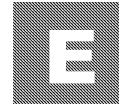
MEMA works with state agencies and energy related authorities to ensure that adequate planning takes place to address energy emergencies of any kind. Shortage, price spike, and security issues are all considered in the planning process.

MEMA works closely with County Emergency Management Agencies and through them with municipalities, to address potential energy emergencies as part of a multi-hazard planning approach that looks at all events that could create an emergency situation for Maine. Voluntary agencies, the first line of response in many emergencies, are also partners in the planning process.

If an emergency reaches crisis proportions, and direct response by the state is necessary, MEMA coordinates activation of the State Emergency Operations Center and works with Emergency Response Team members to field the appropriate response to assist Maine citizens.

Lynette Miller 624-4503

Maine Emergency Management Agency
72 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
lynette.c.miller@maine.gov



Economic & Community Development, Department of

Part of the Department's Office of Business Development, the Energy Conservation Division helps small businesses become more energy-efficient. It administers a variety of programs and provides technical assistance and information on energy conservation to Maine residents and businesses. In addition, the Energy Conservation Division administers Maine's annual State Energy Program (SEP) grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

www.econdevmaine.com/biz-develop.htm

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM

The Small Business Energy Audit Program was developed to help business owners identify opportunities for energy savings. The Energy Conservation Division offers free on-site energy audits, conducted by trained specialists, aimed at finding no-cost/ low-cost operations and maintenance practices that will return immediate savings. Audits can recommend cost-effective energy improvements and help resolve immediate energy problems.

The Energy Conservation Division certifies energy auditors of residential and commercial buildings to "assure the competence necessary to bring about increased utilization of energy conservation techniques." Citation: 5 MRSA § 8021

Brian Dancause 624-7498

Manager, Small Business Division
59 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
brian.k.dancause@maine.gov

ENERGY CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

This is a low interest loan (5% APR) program for small businesses investing in energy conservation projects (e.g. building envelope, lighting, heating, appliances, etc.) The loan amount is 90% of project cost, up to a maximum of \$35,000. Project eligibility is determined by Energy Conservation Division staff. The loan fund was capitalized initially in 1997 with federal Petroleum Violation Escrow (PVE) monies and sustained by federal funds and loan repayments. In FY 2003, the loan fund was recapitalized with \$200,000 from the Maine Public Utilities Commission's Conservation Program Fund.

Since its inception, the Energy Conservation Loan program has financed 27 projects totaling \$525,152 at 26 small businesses located throughout the state. Loan program investments have produced annual energy savings of over 335,000 kilowatt-hours and nearly 4,000,000 MMBtus yielding \$54,000 in annual savings for the 26 small business borrowers.

Shirley Bartlett **624-7495**
Grant Administrator
59 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
shirley.bartlett@maine.gov

ENERGY EFFICIENCY BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Energy Conservation Division is responsible for enforcing mandatory energy efficiency standards for residential, commercial, and institutional buildings. The division coordinates the adoption of energy performance building standards by other state agencies, prepares a Manual of Accepted Practices, issues waivers for electric heating systems in multifamily residential buildings and issues Certificates of Compliance with energy performance standards in commercial and institutional buildings. Citation: 10 MRSA, Chapter 214

Christopher Carroll **624-7494**
Energy Auditor
59 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
christopher.carroll@maine.gov

STATE ENERGY PROGRAM GRANTS

DECD is Maine's contact agency for U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) annual State Energy Program (SEP) grant (\$407,000 FY 03) and for associated SEP Special Projects grants awarded by DOE on a competitive basis. The Energy Conservation Division prepares the annual SEP grant application and assists other Maine organizations in applying for and administering SEP Special Projects grants. The Division also assists Maine organizations in applying for and administering DOE grants, which are not linked to the SEP.

<http://www.eren.doe.gov>

Shirley Bartlett **624-7495**
Grant Administrator
59 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
shirley.bartlett@maine.gov

ENERGY RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The Energy Conservation Division provides a variety of publications to aid Maine business and residents in their energy-related decisions, including:

Tips for Saving Energy in Small Businesses
Maine Guide to Energy Efficient Residential Construction: A Manual of Accepted Practices
Insulation Facts
Comparing Heating Fuel Costs
Oil Fired Heating Systems
The Maine Wood Burning Guide
Water Heating Improvements
Wind Energy
Micro Hydro Power
Fuel Cells

Shirley Bartlett **624-7495**
Grant Administrator
59 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
shirley.bartlett@maine.gov

Energy Resources Council

In 2002, the Legislature established the Energy Resources Council to facilitate interagency coordination of the State's activities related to energy. It is a cabinet-level coordinating council of eight agencies. Members include the Director of the State Planning Office, the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, the Public Advocate, the Director of the Maine State Housing Authority, and the Commissioners of Environmental Protection, Transportation, Administration and Financial Services, and Economic and Community Development. The Council is chaired and staffed by the State Planning Office.

The Council's general responsibilities include: coordination on energy issues that involve the activities of more than one state agency, study of energy issues of state-level significance, assistance to Executive and Legislative decision makers in the formulation of energy policy, and outreach to federal agencies with jurisdiction over energy matters affecting Maine to ensure that Maine interests are served.

The Council meets monthly and reports annually to the Legislature. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting information and information on current issues and priorities can be found on the Energy Resources Council page on the State Planning Office website.

www.maine.gov/spo/energy/energy_council.htm

Julie Hashem

287-9979

Energy Policy Specialist
State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
julie.hashem@maine.gov

Environmental Protection, Department of

The Department of Environmental Protection affects energy production, transportation, and use via its various siting and permitting processes, policy development efforts, educational efforts, and voluntary programs. The majority of the funding for programs comes from dedicated fees or federal grants.

CLEAN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The Clean Government Program was enacted into law in 2000, with a key focus on energy. It is directed by the commissioners of the Departments of Administration & Financial Services and Environmental Protection and requires each state agency to: appoint an individual to oversee the incorporation of environmentally sustainable and compliance practices into agency operations, develop a biennial plan detailing the steps to be taken to incorporate sustainability and compliance, and conduct or demonstrate completion of facility audits of compliance with state and federal environmental laws. In 2001 this law was amended to include state-funded institutions of higher learning. Agencies have submitted plans and a legislative report will be prepared in January 2003. Plans from institutions of higher learning are due in June 2003. Citation: 5 MRSA § 343-H

www.maine.gov/purchase/cleangovt

See also Administration & Financial Services, Department of

David Maxwell

287-7872

Director, Division of Program Services
Bureau of Waste & Remediation
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
david.w.maxwell@maine.gov

CLIMATE ACTION

In July of 2000, the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) adopted a resolution on global warming and its impacts on the environment. In August of 2001, the NEG/ECP adopted its Climate Change Action Plan. The action plan is intended to reduce the region's emissions of greenhouse gases and to build the foundation for a long-term shift to cleaner and more efficient ways of using energy, as well as identifying and adopting adaptive measures.

Kevin MacDonald

287-7598

Environmental Specialist
Bureau of Air Quality
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
kevin.macdonald@maine.gov

LICENSING, PERMITTING, AND SITING PROCESSES APPLICABLE TO ENERGY FACILITIES

The siting of gas or electric transmission lines and siting and operation of energy production facilities may require a number of environmental permits regulating land impacts, air emissions or waste water discharges. In addition, the siting and operation of petroleum storage facilities are regulated by the Department. Finally, to the extent that energy production facilities are using waste as fuel (e.g., waste wood, municipal solid waste), the facility and the waste may be regulated. For significant projects requiring multiple permits such as new energy production facilities, the Department offers a coordinated permitting process so all environmental impacts can be evaluated together.

www.maine.gov/dep

Brooke Barnes

287-7887

Deputy Commissioner
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
brooke.barnes@maine.gov

SMART PRODUCTION/STEP-UP

Smart Production takes a holistic look at the production process and the product itself to find ways to reduce waste and energy use and to make products more recyclable, so materials are recaptured and reused. Smart Production has nine pathways toward sustainability. The first pathway is "energy." The "energy pathway" encourages efficient energy use, minimizing energy use and moving to the use of renewable sources of energy. The Department's STEP-UP (Smart Tracks for Exceptional Performers and Upward Performers) program, which is voluntary and agreement based, offers benefits to businesses interested in implementing sustainable practices. To participate, companies set goals and publicly report on their progress. There is no penalty for not reaching a goal. The Department provides recognition, technical assistance, networking opportunities with other innovative companies and benefits unique to each participating business.

www.maine.gov/dep/oc/smrtprod/index.htm

Craig Tenbroeck

287-7828

Director of Policy Development & Improvement
Office of Commissioner
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
craig.w.tenbroeck@maine.gov

MOBILE SOURCE INITIATIVE

In November 1999 Governor King unveiled the first-in-the-nation consumer labeling program for new cars. This program helps car-shopping individuals easily identify the cleanest, most fuel efficient vehicles on Maine dealers' lots. To qualify, a car model must meet two environmental criteria. First, it must be certified as low emission, ultra low emission, super ultra low emission, or zero emission. In addition it must have 30 miles per gallon highway fuel economy rating or better.

Lynne Cayting

287-7599

Environmental Specialist
Bureau of Air Quality
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
lynne.a.cayting@maine.gov

POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Office of Pollution Prevention was created in 1991 by an amendment to Maine's Toxic Use and Hazardous Waste Reduction Law. Pollution prevention (P2) is the use of processes, practices, or products that reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants and wastes or that protect natural resources through conservation or more efficient use. Pollution prevention is aimed at reducing the amount of pollution going into the waste stream, rather than treating it after it is generated. Methods to reduce pollution include changes in materials, processes and equipment, which often result in a significant monetary savings and can result in greater energy efficiency, in addition to the reduction in pollutants generated. DEP provides planning assistance for pollution prevention planning and implementation. A company's P2 plan often includes energy components.

www.maine.gov/dep/oia/p2home.htm

Ron Dyer

287-4152

Director, Innovation & Assistance
Office of the Commissioner
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
ron.e.dyer@maine.gov

SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Through the Small Business Technical Assistance Program, the Department provides environmental ombudsman, compliance and pollution prevention assistance to Maine businesses, including those engaged in the energy sector. Companies under 100 employees are provided protection from enforcement and penalties for self disclosure of first time violations.

www.maine.gov/dep/oia/smbusta.htm

Ron Dyer

287-4152

Director, Innovation & Assistance
Office of the Commissioner
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
ron.e.dyer@maine.gov

Julie Churchill

287-7881

Asst. Director, Innovation & Assistance
Office of the Commissioner
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
julie.m.churchill@maine.gov

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The Community Sustainability Project is a program maintained by the Bureau of Air Quality, and is an effort to educate students on the factors that can lead to a community's success. Students are encouraged to consider factors affecting their communities, such as people and population, natural resource use and the natural environment. Students then use that information to assess community health and identify opportunities for community improvement. One of the major goals of the sustainability project is to reduce communities' dependence on nonrenewable sources of power and focus on renewable sources and on energy conservation.

Deb Avalone-King

287-7028

Environmental Specialist
Bureau of Air Quality
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
debbie.j.avalone-king@maine.gov



*Executive Department,
Office of the Governor*

In addition to its executive policy role, the Governor's office is involved with energy

programs and policies through its appointment of cabinet members with energy-related responsibilities and its appointment of representatives to state, regional, and federal working groups on energy issues of significance to Maine.

EMERGENCY POWERS

The Governor has authority to proclaim an energy emergency and, in cases of emergency, powers to implement or waive certain programs, standards, priorities and quotas. Citation: 37 MRSA § 742

Office of the Governor

287-3531

1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

REGIONAL ENERGY POLICY

In recognition that Maine is part of a larger energy market, the Governor works with executive leaders in the region to advance issues important to Maine and the region.

Office of the Governor

287-3531

1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333



*Finance Authority of
Maine*

The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) influences energy use primarily through financial assistance programs.

www.famemaine.com

ELECTRIC RATE STABILIZATION PROGRAM

This program provided financing assistance to help Maine electric utility companies pay for the costs of renegotiated contracts with non-utility generators at lower interest rates than they would otherwise have to pay, with the goal of lower electric rates for rate

payers. FAME's authority under this program sunset in 1999.

UNDERGROUND OIL STORAGE FACILITY OR TANK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

This program provides direct loans or grants of up to \$600,000, and 100% loan guarantees to banks that provide loans, for renovation, removal, replacement and/or disposal of commercial underground and aboveground tanks and related facilities (including associated piping and vapor recovery systems). Eligibility is based on the scope of the project, current net worth and level of debt service coverage. Propane facilities are ineligible.

Deborah Cole **623-3263**

Commercial Loan Officer
PO Box 949
Augusta, ME 04332-0949
debbie@famemaine.com

CLEAN FUEL VEHICLE PROGRAM

This program provides direct loans, or 100% loan guarantees to banks that make loans, to finance the purchase of clean fuel vehicles or the conversion of other vehicles to enable them to use clean fuel. Loans are limited to \$50,000 and direct loans vary in rate depending on the level of non-program matching investments provided from other sources. Currently, there is no funding for direct loans.

Deborah Cole **623-3263**

Commercial Loan Officer
PO Box 949
Augusta, ME 04332-0949
debbie@famemaine.com

HIGH POLLUTION VEHICLE RETIREMENT PILOT PROGRAM

This program is a cooperative effort involving FAME and DEP. The DEP issues vouchers of up to \$2,000 to individuals who voluntarily retire their older, higher pollution emitting vehicles. The vouchers are redeemed by FAME when the holder replaces the retired vehicle with a more recent, less-polluting

vehicle. This program was frozen due to lack of funds to meet program demand.

Deborah Cole **623-3263**

Commercial Loan Officer
PO Box 949
Augusta, ME 04332-0949
debbie@famemaine.com

WASTE OIL FURNACE LOAN PROGRAM

This program provides interest subsidies to banks that provide financing to borrowers purchasing a waste oil furnace. Loans are limited to \$5,000 and the subsidy reduces the interest rate to the borrower to 3%. This program has been dormant due to lack of funding since 1999.

Deborah Cole **623-3263**

Commercial Loan Officer
PO Box 949
Augusta, ME 04332-0949
debbie@famemaine.com

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UTILIZATION COMMISSION

The Agricultural Products Utilization Commission is an independent commission created by the Legislature. The Commission is charged with identifying issues related to the development of agriculturally-derived fuel industries in the State. The Commission is empowered to identify opportunities for fuel production. FAME provides staff and support services to the Commission. Citation: 10 MRSA § 997-B

Mark Butterfield **623-3263**

Senior Commercial Loan Officer/Lending & Marketing Development Manager
PO Box 949
Augusta, ME 04332-0949
markbu@famemaine.com

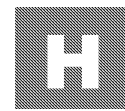
NORTHERN MAINE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

The Northern Maine Transmission Corporation is a legislatively-created FAME subsidiary. It was created to examine the need for and viability of, and to finance,

permit, construct, own and operate any electric transmission lines which might be necessary to connect electric utilities in the northern region of the State with the transmission grid of the U.S. It allows customers served by such utilities to receive the benefits of service similar to other electric customers in the State.

Field Rider **623-3263**

Director, Business Assistance Division
PO Box 949
Augusta, ME 04332-0949
field@famemaine.com



Human Services, Department of

The Bureau of Family Independence at the Department of Human Services administers programs to assist Maine's most vulnerable citizens with energy needs. It also provides outreach to the elderly and people with special needs. The Bureau of Health provides information about health issues such as hypothermia. (Please note: the information included below is current as of October 2002.)

Web: www.maine.gov/dhs

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Emergency Assistance Program is limited to families with children under the age of 21 and is under the umbrella of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program that was formerly known as AFDC. No cash grants are made. Vendor payments are made to providers of goods or services. A one-time payment or series of payments not to exceed one consecutive 30-day period in a 12-month cycle may be made. There is a maximum on individual categories, one of which provides assistance for utility disconnections. The maximum

amount of assistance for this category is \$150.00. While this program does not provide assistance with fuel, it may help with propane or electricity shut-offs if the applicant provides the department with a copy of the shut off notice. Applications may be obtained at the regional DHS offices. Many municipalities also have applications for this program.

Rose Masure 287-2826

11 State House Station
Whitten Road
Augusta, ME 04333
rose.masure@maine.gov

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The General Assistance program provides assistance with basic needs for eligible applicants who cannot provide for themselves and their families. Basic needs are defined to include, among others, fuel and utilities. The program is administered at the local level. The Department administers the program for residents of unorganized territories and shares the administration of the program with the municipalities.

Each municipality enacts a local general assistance ordinance, consistent with state law that specifies the type and amount of assistance provided by the program, including assistance with electricity costs and various types of heating fuels. The municipality is only obligated to grant assistance to eligible applicants for basic necessities according to maximum levels for specific types of assistance set forth in their local General Assistance ordinance.

Recipients do not receive assistance directly. Assistance is granted in the form of vouchers to the vendors. Eligibility is limited to a 30-day period. Administrators are required to provide a decision of eligibility or ineligibility within 24 hours of taking the completed application. Applicants are expected to use their income and resources to provide for their basic necessities. Due to the strong accountability factor there are times when an applicant is denied assistance even when there is an emergency. The denial would be

appropriate if the emergency could have been averted by the applicant's use of income and resources.

Applicants are responsible for making arrangements with the utility company regarding service, including entering into a special payment arrangement if necessary. Assistance will be granted to eligible applicants on the basis of their most recent bill. The municipality is not obligated to pay back bills or utility security deposits.

Exceptions may be made in emergency situations. Applicants are responsible for monitoring their fuel supply and requesting assistance prior to depleting their fuel supply. Applications may be made at the municipal offices.

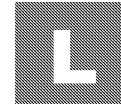
HEATING UTILITY AND NON HEAT UTILITY ALLOWANCE

Heating costs are considered when determining eligibility and benefit levels for food stamps. When determining eligibility and benefit levels, households have the option of using the standard utility allowance (SUA) or actual utility expenses as deductions. Households which receive Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) and Emergency Crisis Intervention Assistance (ECIP) are automatically entitled to the Full Standard Utility Allowance (FSUA). Other households must incur expenses for heating or air conditioning bills which are separate and apart from rent/mortgage in order to qualify for the FSUA. Households not entitled to the FSUA may claim the actual expenses incurred or elect to use the Non-heat Utility Allowance (NHUA). The FSUA is \$401 and NHUA is \$162.00. The allowance is deducted from applicants' income to determine eligibility and benefit levels.

See also Maine State Housing Authority LIHEAP and ECIP.

Cindy Boyd 287-3097

11 State House Station
Whitten Road
Augusta, ME 04333
cindy.boyd@maine.gov



Legislature, Maine

Bills affecting production, delivery, or use of energy in Maine are generally addressed by the following committees.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

This Committee reviews state expenditures including those related to energy activities.

http://Janus.maine.gov/house/jt_com/afa.htm

Committee Analyst 287-1670

13 State House Station
Room 215, Cross Office Building
Augusta, ME 04333

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Energy policy and programs related to business & economic development are addressed by this committee.

http://Janus.maine.gov/house/jt_com/bec.htm

Committee Analyst 287-1670

13 State House Station
Room 215, Cross Office Building
Augusta, ME 04333

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

This committee addresses environmental policy that can affect the siting and operations of energy facilities.

http://Janus.maine.gov/house/jt_com/nat.htm

Committee Analyst 287-1670

13 State House Station
Room 215, Cross Office Building
Augusta, ME 04333

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Energy issues related to transportation are addressed by this committee.

http://Janus.maine.gov/house/jt_com/tra.htm

Committee Analyst 287-1670

13 State House Station
Room 215, Cross Office Building
Augusta, ME 04333

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND ENERGY

The Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy has responsibility for utilities and energy policy issues in Maine.

www.maine.gov/legis/opla/utecom.htm

Committee Analyst 287-1670

13 State House Station
Room 215, Cross Office Building
Augusta, ME 04333



Maine Municipal Bond Bank

The Legislature created the Bond Bank in 1972 to provide Maine towns, cities, counties, school systems, water and sewer districts, and other governmental entities access to national money markets for their public purpose borrowing. The Maine Bond Bank has several initiatives related to energy use.

www.mainebondbank.com

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERS PROGRAM

The Municipal Bond Bank is authorized to establish a program to promote energy efficiency and indoor air quality in municipal and school buildings by financing cost-effective improvements to heating and

cooling systems, windows, insulation, lighting, and equipment that accomplish energy efficiency while maintaining healthful indoor air quality. No program is currently in effect. Citation: 30MRSA § 5953-C

Steve Doak 621-0744

Program Officer
PO Box 2268
Augusta, ME 04330
shd@mainepoweroptions.org

MAINE HEALTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES AUTHORITY

The Maine Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority (MHHEFA) is authorized to create a buyer's cooperative to purchase commodities such as fuel oil, electricity, telecommunications services and office supplies. All non-profit health and higher educational facilities in the state, including the University of Maine System and 126 health care organizations, are eligible to participate.

Michael Goodwin 622-1958

Program Officer
PO Box 2268
Augusta, ME 04330

www.mhhefa.com

MAINE POWER OPTIONS

Maine Power Options is an energy-purchasing consortium offering group-purchasing programs for fuel oil and electricity. Eligible participants include: Maine non-profit higher education institutions; non-profit healthcare organizations such as hospitals, community health centers, nursing facilities, or agencies serving adults and children with disabilities; Maine cities, towns, counties, school, water, or sewer districts; and other non-profit organizations such as museums, cultural and scientific organizations. Maine Power Options is co-sponsored by the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. Citation: 30-A MRSA, § 5954-A

www.maineenergyoptions.org

Steve Doak 621-0744

Program Officer
PO Box 2268
Augusta, ME 04330
shd@mainepoweroptions.org

Maine State Housing Authority

The Maine State Housing Authority offers a variety of energy assistance and energy conservation programs for consumers.

www.mainehousing.org

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grant to Maine helps low-income homeowners and renters with their heating costs. 15% of LIHEAP funding is earmarked to the Weatherization & CHIP programs (see below). The funds are distributed throughout Maine by 11 Community Action Agencies, in most cases directly to the fuel vendors. The program will serve approximately 48,000 low-income homeowners. The average fuel assistance benefit per household in the 2001-2002 heating season was about \$360. The program also includes the Emergency Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) which provides emergency fuel deliveries and heating system repair. Funding for FY02, \$17.9 Million, Citation: CFR 45

Jo-Ann Choate 624-5708

Energy Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
jchoate@mainehousing.org

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE PLAN (LIAP)

MSHA administers this program which is regulated by the Maine Public Utilities

Commission (PUC Rule Chapter 314). The purpose of this program is to help low-income customers pay their electric bills. The program is funded by Maine's energy transmission and distribution (T&Ds) utilities. Each T&D utility, except those exempted by law, is required to provide this program for its respective region.

See also Public Utilities Commission

Jo-Ann Choate 624-5708

Energy Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
jchoate@mainehousing.org

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE CHALLENGE PROGRAM (REACH)

The Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program (REACH) is a 3-year project designed to low-income households reduce their energy costs. Its goals are to provide energy conservation education to all rental LIHEAP applicants; provide energy audits to 350 households who are highly energy burdened; replace 350 home appliances using excessive energy and provide energy conservation materials. 11 owner occupied homes using electric water heaters will have them replaced with solar heated domestic hot water systems. Funding for FY02 \$700,000. Citation: CFR 45

Jo-Ann Choate 624-5708

Energy Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
jchoate@mainehousing.org

BUNDLEMEUP

The BundleMeUp website was created for Maine citizens to provide information in the event of a winter energy crisis. Valuable information on ways to conserve energy and where to find programs and services at the state and federal level are located at this site.

www.bundlemeup.com

Jo-Ann Choate 624-5708

Energy Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
jchoate@mainehousing.org

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant to Maine equals approximately \$3 million annually in addition to the 15% set-aside for weatherization from the LIHEAP program. The funds provide services to income qualified households. The primary function is to provide insulation, air sealing, and air quality and energy efficiency enhancements in homes of Maine's low income population. The weatherization programs are delivered at the local level through Maine's Community Action Agencies. The average weatherization repair cost is \$2,520. Approximately 1,000 households receive weatherization services on an annual basis. Citation: 10 CFR 440 (DOE); CFR 45 (HHS)

Roger Bondeson 626-4635

Housing Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
rbondeson@mainehousing.org

CENTRAL HEATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIP)

A component of weatherization includes the Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP). Up to \$2,500 is available for income eligible households to repair or replace a dangerous or inoperable heating system. Approximately 860 qualified households will receive CHIP services. Citation: CFR 45

Roger Bondeson 626-4635

Housing Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
rbondeson@mainehousing.org

LOW INCOME REFRIGERATOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Public Utilities Commission reserves 20% of its electric energy conservation funds to improve energy efficiency in low-income households. One of these efficiency efforts is an appliance change out program. In 2002 and 2003, the appliance change out program will receive \$300,000 to replace inefficient refrigerators. The program will be delivered through the 11 Community Action Agencies. This is an interim program and subject to change by the PUC pending results of this initial effort. Citation: 35 A MRSA § 3211-A

Roger Bondeson 626-4635

Housing Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
rbondeson@mainehousing.org

HOME REHABILITATION

The Home Rehabilitation program is a pilot in Washington, Hancock, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Oxford, Kennebec, Somerset, and Knox counties.

Eligible homeowners receive either deferred/forgivable or low interest loans. Homeowners can make essential improvements, including energy-related repairs or improvements, bring the home up to local and state codes, make improvements necessary to permit use by persons with disabilities, mitigate lead, repair or replace major housing systems in danger of failure, and repair or replacement failing septic systems. Utilizing the energy audit performed in the weatherization program, the program helps homeowners establish the most appropriate energy conservation measures and identify potential health and safety issues. Approximately 100 households will qualify for rehabilitation loans. Funding for FY02 \$2.7 Million Citation: 42 U.S.C. 12701

Roger Bondeson 626-4635

Housing Services Manager
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
rbondeson@mainehousing.org

PRESERVATION FINANCING PROGRAM

The Preservation Financing Program preserves the future affordability of MSHA-financed Section 8 projects. The Section 8 Program is a rental assistance program where MSHA pays for 30% of the monthly rental fee for each tenant. In some circumstances, MSHA provides special financing to the landlord to upgrade their Section 8 property, including energy conservation repairs. As a requirement for funding for capital improvements, electric heating systems must be converted to another (more efficient) heating source.

Bill Glover 626-4634

Program Officer
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
bglover@mainehousing.org

RENTAL LOAN PROGRAM

The Rental Loan Program finances the development of large scale affordable apartment buildings. Developers are required to follow industry standards for insulating the facilities.

Rick Churchill 626-4694

Program Officer
Maine State Housing Authority
353 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330
rchurchill@mainehousing.org

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

MSHA provides many of its energy related programs/services through a network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) which are located throughout the state.

Aroostook County Action Program, Presque Isle

Jim Baillargeon 764-3721

Coastal Economic Development Corp., Bath

Carole Thomas 442-7963

Community Concepts, Inc., South Paris

Dennis Lajoie 743-7716

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, Waterville

David Gilpatrick 873-2122

Coastal Community Action Program, Rockland

Nancy Fritz 596-0361

Penquis Community Action Program, Bangor

Steve Mooers 973-3500

Peoples Regional Opportunity Program, Portland

Carla Peterson 874-1140

Waldo County Committee for Social Action, Belfast

Vicki York 338-6809

Washington-Hancock Community Agency, Milbridge

Mike Bonzagni 546-7544

Western Maine Community Action, Inc., East Wilton

Susan Twitchell 645-3764

York County Community Action Corp., Sanford

Walt Wilcox 324-5762

Maine State Police

The Maine State Police can grant waivers from Federal Motor Carriers Safety Regulations.

TRANSPORTATION WAIVERS

Maine regulates the movement of commercial vehicles through Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. Provisions exist

to provide relief from these regulations during any declared emergency. Permission for movement on posted roads is generally handled on a case by case basis. Home heating delivery trucks, however, can get a one time permit to operate on posted roads that runs for the life of the vehicle. Citation: 49 CFR Part 390.23

See also Transportation, Department of Motor Carrier Rules

Lt. Christopher Grotton 624-8926

Commercial Vehicle Program
397 Water Street
Gardiner, ME 04345
christopher.b.grotton@maine.gov

*Public Advocate,
Office of*

The Public Advocate advocates for the interests of ratepayers of electric and gas utilities before the Maine Public Utilities Commission and in regional and national forums where utility policy is debated and adopted.

ADVOCACY FOR RETAIL UTILITY CONSUMERS

The Public Advocate advocates for the lowest feasible rates and the highest levels of service quality for customers of Maine's regulated electric and gas utilities. These efforts are focused primarily at the Maine PUC, the Legislature and appellate courts. The Public Advocate hires expert witnesses to present recommendations in PUC ratemaking proceedings, PUC investigations and PUC Certificate of Need proceedings for new utility-owned generators, pipelines or transmission lines. The Office also works closely with citizens groups on utility-related concerns. Citation: 35 A MRSA §1701

<http://www.maine.gov/meopa/>

Stephen Ward

287-2445

Public Advocate
112 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
stephen.g.ward@maine.gov

**ADVOCACY IN WHOLESALE
MARKETS**

The Public Advocate advocates for the interests of Maine consumers in regional and federal proceedings pertaining to wholesale electricity. In cooperation with the region's other 5 state Consumer Advocates, the Public Advocate is involved in activities at the New England Power Pool and at ISO-New England. The Public Advocate is also regularly involved in proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) pertaining to interstate electricity and gas transmission, and occasionally with both FERC and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on issues pertaining to the decommissioning of the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant in Wiscasset. The Public Advocate holds a seat on the Advisory Committee for ISO-New England, on the North American Electric Reliability Counsel's Market Interface Committee and on the North American Energy Standards Board – Retail Quadrant, the national standard setting body for competitively-marketed products. Citation: 35-A MRSA §1702 (5)

Stephen Ward

287-2445

Public Advocate
112 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
stephen.g.ward@maine.gov

**ENERGY-RELATED
PUBLICATIONS**

The Public Advocate's office publishes an electricity shopping guide 2-3 times per year that contains information about electricity prices and markets, with particular emphasis on the state of wholesale and retail electricity competition.

<http://www.maine.gov/meopa/>

Eric Bryant

287-4314

Senior Counsel
112 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
eric.j.bryant@maine.gov

*Public Utilities
Commission*

The Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) purpose is to protect the public by ensuring that Maine's utilities provide adequate and reliable service at rates that are reasonable.

The Maine Legislature created the PUC in 1913. The PUC has broad powers to regulate more than 383 utility companies and districts that generate more than \$1.7 billion per year in electric, telephone, water, and gas utility revenues. The PUC also responds to customer questions and complaints, grants utility operating authority, regulates utility service standards, and monitors utility operations for safety and reliability. Like a court, the PUC may take testimony, subpoena witnesses and records, issue decisions or orders, hold public and evidentiary hearings and encourage participation of all affected parties, including utility customers. The Commission also initiates investigations and rulemakings, resolves procedural matters, investigates allegations of illegal utility activity, and responds to legislative requirements.

www.maine.gov/mpuc

CONSUMER ASSISTANCE

The Consumer Assistance Division (CAD) of the PUC serves as the response center for any consumer complaint from utility customers. The CAD is charged with ensuring that both consumers and utilities receive fair and equitable service, which is achieved through CAD educational and complaint resolution programs.

Derek Davidson

287-1596

Division Director
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
derek.d.davidson@maine.gov

**COMPETITIVE ELECTRICITY
PROVIDER LICENSING**

All competitive electricity providers (CEPs), including suppliers, marketers, aggregators and brokers must be licensed by the PUC in order to sell electricity to retail consumers in Maine. The PUC reviews license applications for conformance with Chapter 305 of its rules, including requirements for financial security and technical capability, and monitors CEPs for continued compliance. Citation: 35-A MRSA §3203

Dennis Keschl

287-1353

Administrative Director
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
dennis.keschl@maine.gov

**ELECTRIC ENERGY
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

In April 2002, the Legislature directed the PUC to design and implement programs to promote efficient electricity use throughout Maine. The Small Business Energy Efficiency Program is one in a series of efficiency programs being implemented and will help satisfy a requirement in the law that at least 20% of efficiency program resources be targeted at the "hard to reach" small business market. The PUC plans to invest up to \$1.2 million dollars in this program in the coming year. Citation 35-A MRSA § 3211-A

Phil Hastings

287-6704

Utility Analyst
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
phil.hastings@maine.gov

**ENERGY RELATED
PUBLICATIONS**

The PUC Library is a public resource. It includes over 100 books on energy conservation and maintains several periodical subscriptions which provide energy industry information. A librarian is available to assist both staff and visitors with searching the collection.

PUC Librarian

287-3831

18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
maine.puc@maine.gov

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE PLAN

Chapter 314 of the PUC rules establishes a statewide Low Income Assistance Plan to make electric bills more affordable for qualified low-income customers. Each of Maine's transmission and distribution utilities must maintain a Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP) that is available to all of the utility's residential electric customers who are certified to receive heating assistance benefits. Chapter 314 also creates a central fund to finance the statewide plan and apportions the fund to each utility based on the percentage of eligible persons residing in that utility's service territory. The fund is maintained by contributions from the State's transmission and distribution utilities. Total funding for the statewide program is \$5.8 million for program years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

See also Maine State Housing Authority

Derek Davidson

287-1596

Division Director
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
derek.d.davidson@maine.gov



State Planning Office

The State Planning Office (SPO) advises the Administration and Legislature on energy policy, and is responsible for the development of energy information resources and planning documents. Citation: 5 MRSA § 3305-B

www.maine.gov/spo

ENERGY PLANNING AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

SPO leads a variety of energy planning and policy development activities and facilitates coordination of energy policy across agencies. SPO both chairs and staffs the Energy Resources Council – a coordinating Council of state agencies involved with energy issues. SPO represents Maine's energy interests on committees of the Coalition of Northeast Governors, the New England Governors Conference, and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, as well as on the OCS Policy Committee which advises the US Secretary of Interior on offshore oil and gas development. SPO also represents the Governor's Office at the New England Power Pool, a voluntary organization of market participants who propose and evaluate rules governing the operation of New England's wholesale electricity market. Recent policy efforts have addressed improving competitive regional electricity markets, encouraging increased energy efficiency, identifying cost-effective climate actions, and energy emergency preparedness.

Julie Hashem

287-9979

Energy Policy Specialist
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
julie.hashem@maine.gov

EMERGENCY PETROLEUM SET ASIDE

Under specific emergency situations, the Director of the State Planning Office is authorized to establish a set-aside system for petroleum products. Prime suppliers would set aside a percentage of petroleum products for distribution by the State to meet emergency and hardship needs. This power has never been invoked. Citation: 5 MRSA §3307-D

Julie Hashem

287-9979

Energy Policy Specialist
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
julie.hashem@maine.gov

HYDROPOWER RELICENSING

SPO coordinates Maine's state agency responses to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on hydropower relicensing processes.

Betsy Elder

287-8927

Hydropower Coordinator
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
betsy.elder@maine.gov

WINTER HEATING FUELS SURVEY AND INVENTORY

Supported by an annual US Department of Energy (DOE) grant, SPO conducts a weekly survey of heating oil, kerosene and propane prices in Maine during the heating season from October 1 through March 31. In addition the Legislature has directed the SPO to annually prepare a report on the supply of petroleum products, identifying any potential shortfalls and making recommendations for actions. Citation: 5 MRSA § 3307-C, sub. 5

Betsy Elder

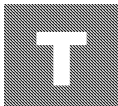
287-8927

Hydropower Coordinator
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
betsy.elder@maine.gov

RENEWABLE RESOURCE FUND

The SPO has responsibility for administering the Renewable Resource Fund, a program funded by voluntary contributions from electric utility ratepayers. Two types of projects are eligible for funding: 1) renewable resource R&D at the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy or the Maine Technical College System; and 2) community demonstration of renewable energy technologies by Maine-based non profit organizations, consumer owned electric cooperatives, or community action programs. To date, this program has been inactive due to insufficient funds. However, with approximated \$50,000 now in the Fund, the first project will likely be undertaken in 2003. Citation: 35-A MRSA § 3210

Julie Hashem
Energy Policy Specialist
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
julie.hashem@maine.gov



Transportation, Department of

The Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT) plans and develops transportation facilities and services designed to contribute to the economic growth of the state of Maine and the well-being of its people. The Department plans for future transportation needs and assists in the development, operation and maintenance of services and facilities while promoting scenic values, safety, environmental conservation and economic considerations.

EXPLORE MAINE

Maine DOT's statewide strategic plan to encourage passenger rail, transit and other non-single occupancy vehicle travel is broadly captured by the Explore Maine umbrella. Millions of dollars of capital investment, combined with strategic marketing, stimulates growth in public and private transportation options.

Ron Roy **624-3000**
Office of Passenger Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
ron.roy@state.me.us

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND (CMAQ) FUNDS

Maine DOT administers Federal Highway Administration CMAQ funds. These funds support a variety of transportation demand management programs and the DEP Air Bureau's education and outreach activities.

Carl Croce **624-3300**
Executive Department
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
carl.croce@maine.gov

RIDESHARING AND VANPOOLING

Maine DOT, in conjunction with the Maine Turnpike Authority, manages the Rideshare and Vanpooling programs. These programs relieve traffic congestion, pollution and energy consumption by providing opportunities for people with the same destination to travel together. There are support services as well as incentives for the continued use of the program, such as drawings and prizes.

Barbara Donovan **624-3245**
Office of Passenger Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
barbara.donovan@maine.gov

PARK AND RIDE

Another program aimed at reducing the numbers of vehicles on the road, Park and Ride provides parking lots around the state for the purpose of providing carpools a central meeting point and safe place to leave their personal vehicle while carpooling.

www.maine.gov/mdot/opt/opt1.htm

Barbara Donovan **624-3245**
Office of Passenger Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
barbara.donovan@maine.gov

GO MAINE

The GO Maine commuter program is administered by the Greater Portland Council of Governments and funded by the Maine DOT and the Maine Turnpike Authority. The statewide commuter program provides transportation services including carpools, vanpools, and other available commuting options, together with transit, bicycling and walking and offers information to commuters and other travelers who live, work, or travel

in the state of Maine. Program services include:

Car Pool and Van Pool Ride Matching.

GO Maine uses a computerized database of thousands of commuters and commuter information to match new and existing registrants to the appropriate commuting options.

Express Vanpool Service. GO MAINE operates nine express commuter vanpools from the Greater Portland and Lewiston-Auburn areas to workplaces throughout the Augusta area. New vanpools are proposed in 2003 for other regions of the state.

Commuter Support Services. GO Maine provides the Emergency Ride Home Guarantee—the number one benefit that allows for a free rental car or taxi ride home in the event of a workday emergency—to all registered commuters who are regular users of commuting alternatives.

Employer Marketing and Assistance. GO Maine works with employers to promote and facilitate custom commuting solutions that help solve such problems as parking shortages and worksite access.

Outreach and Education. GO Maine works cooperatively with employers, business groups, transportation providers, and schools and utilizes presentations, newsletters, advertising and cooperative marketing as communication tools to promote the benefits of commuting.

Commute Another Way Day. GO Maine sponsors this highly successful commuter education and outreach program, and represents a tremendous cooperative effort between employers, transportation providers, and other agencies. Hundreds of employers and thousands of commuters participate each year using alternate means of commuting to work other than the single-occupancy vehicle.

www.ridesharemaine.org

Barbara Donovan 624-3245

Office of Passenger Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
barbara.donovan@maine.gov

ALTERNATIVE TRANSIT AND FUELS

The Office of Passenger Transportation (OPT) is working on various alternative transportation options. OPT is working with Acadia National Park's Island Explorer bus service to provide funding for their propane-powered bus fleet. OPT is providing funding for a new CNG fueling station in Portland in support of Portland Metro's plans to purchase CNG buses. The OPT is also investigating other fuel sources such as biodiesel for transit operations. Citation 23 MRSA § 411-413 and § 601-621

Barbara Donovan 624-3245

Office of Passenger Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
barbara.donovan@maine.gov

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Over the last eight years, MDOT has invested in rail and port redevelopment to increase transportation options for Maine people and businesses. Projects include the re-introduction of rail service between Portland and Boston, rehabilitation of various state-owned rail lines and redevelopment of the Ports of Eastport and Rockland. Citation: 23 MRSA § 411-413 and § 601-621

Rob Elder 624-3560

Director of Office of Freight Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
rob.elder@maine.gov

Ron Roy 624-3250

Director of Office of Passenger Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
ron.roy@maine.gov

PORT SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

Through port system administration, Maine DOT enables the delivery of bulk fuels to Maine. Maine DOT is responsible for the licensure of marine pilots through its administration of the Maine Pilotage Commission. It is responsible for the statewide prioritization of dredging projects for the Army Corps of Engineers. Through the Maine Port Authority, Maine DOT enters into public/private partnerships with marine terminal operators on projects that have a public benefit. Citation: 23 MRSA § 4420-4429

Brian Nutter 624-3564

Director of Maine Port Authority
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
brian.nutter@maine.gov

MOTOR CARRIER RULES

Maine DOT policies affect the delivery of bulk fuels by truck. Maine DOT, in cooperation with various other state and federal agencies, sets motor carrier policy on vehicle size, weight and dimension. These policies are intended to provide for the safe and efficient delivery of freight.

See also Maine State Police

Tim Bolton 624-3559

Office of Freight Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
tim.bolton@maine.gov

FLEET ENERGY USE

New Maine DOT vehicles are purchased with state of the art technology to reduce emissions and maximize efficiency. In addition, Maine DOT's Bureau of Maintenance and Operations is currently implementing an engine idling campaign to reduce unnecessary energy use and associated emissions when vehicles are not in motion.

Walter Wieczorek 287-2677

Motor Transport Services
Bureau of Maintenance & Operations
16 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333
Walter.wieczorek@maine.gov

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Maine DOT is actively developing ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) programs in the areas of passenger travel such as the CARS and 511 programs to maximize flow and reduce congestion. In the area of freight, there are a number of ITS-CVO projects such as UMCAMS, PRISM, and CVISN architecture to improve preclearance activities, maximize flow and decrease congestion for trucks.

Carl Croce 624-3300

Executive Office
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
carl.croce@maine.gov

LED TRAFFIC LIGHT PROGRAM

Maine DOT has a goal to complete the retrofit of state and municipally maintained traffic signals to more energy efficient LED [light emitting diode] lights by the end of 2007. In recent years, Maine DOT has been routinely using LED bulbs in new signal installations and all major upgrades. Such retrofits are a sustainability strategy in Maine DOT's June 2002 Clean Government plan. PUC electric conservation funds, awarded in November 2002, will allow municipal incentive funds, saving electricity while reducing expenses now covered by property taxes.

Stephen Landry 624-3000

Traffic Engineering
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
stephen.landry@maine.gov

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